



Adult Learning Services

Strategic Adult Learning Services Newsletter

July 2021

Hi, we hope our July newsletter reaches you safe and well. Since last month, both the Adult Education Programme and Outlook have been planning to run and launch new outdoor courses. Along with the service updates, this edition also has a section on the UN's World conservation day and some tips on how to be green and save money in the process.

1

Adult Education Programme

We're currently offering an online programme as well as running outdoor groups

2

Adult Literacies

As we can't hold face to face groups, free online learning, digital support and over the phone learning are being provided to learners

3

ESOL

Weekly online classes at various levels are available to adult learners for whom English is a second language

4

Family Learning

We offer ways for parents to create strategies which help support their children's learning and development

5

Outlook

As face to face classes aren't possible at the moment, we are holding online sessions and sending newsletters

6

Resettlement Project - ESOL and Family Learning Services

For refugees resettled in Edinburgh (as part of the UK Resettlement Scheme)

World Nature Conservation Day takes place in countries across the world every year on the 28th of July. The main purpose of celebrating this day is to conserve the fauna, trees and plants that grow naturally, as well as the animals and insects that depend on them. The animals and plants that live in the wild are of vital importance for various reasons, all of which are central to humans' physical and mental well-being. Working towards sustainable development is vital for protecting the natural habitats that we all rely on.

The UN Environment Programme state never has there been a more of an urgent need to revive damaged ecosystems. In October, the UN's climate change conference will be held in Glasgow. It offers potential for us to think about what both governments can and should be doing, as well as enable us to assess the steps we can each take in order to lessen our own environmental impact, some of which can save us money.

For example you can save around £35 a year just by turning your appliances off standby mode. Home Energy Scotland have more tips for energy and money saving steps: <https://www.homeenergyscotland.org/> or free phone **0808 808 2282**

'Nature is painting for us, day after day, pictures of infinite beauty' - John Ruskin



1 **Edinburgh's Adult Education Programme (AEP).** Did you know that the countdown to enrolment is up, as of Wednesday the 28th of July, you can now register for our classes! We have a variety of outdoor courses starting in early September, as well as our online programme starting later in September.

From archaeology and sketching to geology, woodwork and walking there is so much to choose from. Also, our classes offer the chance to get outside, learn something new and meet with a small friendly tutor led group. Follow the link below to have a look at the 35 different outdoor courses on offer and decide what you would like to try: <https://bit.ly/36TQ6Ji>

Please note, outdoor course spaces are filling up fast, so it is advisable to book quickly.

If you have any questions about our upcoming courses, then please get in touch with us at: adult.education@ea.edin.sch.uk

You can also follow us on social media:

-  www.twitter.com/AepEdinburgh
-  www.facebook.com/EdinburghAEP
-  www.instagram.com/edinburghaeprogramme/

2 **Adult Literacies:** Adult Literacies' groups and courses are free for all adults who want to build skills and confidence in reading, writing, spelling or numbers. Learners decide what they want to work on and can learn at their own pace. Each person will be working towards a different goal. They may want to help their children with homework, write better work reports, manage money or work towards SQA qualifications. Small, friendly groups run in community centres and libraries across Edinburgh. Each group has a tutor and where possible has access to computers with support from a volunteer tutor.

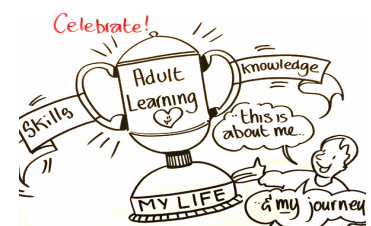
Due to Covid there are no face-to-face groups running just now. Adults can continue learning online with digital support available to them or they can work with a tutor by phone and post.

For general enquiries please email: ale@ea.edin.sch.uk | **Adult Learning line:** 0800 085 7672

For more details contact Liz Hight - Adult Literacies Lifelong Learning Development Officer
Email: Liz.Hight@ea.edin.sch.uk | Tel: 07922416232

Find on us Facebook and YouTube:

-  Facebook - Adult Literacy Edinburgh - <https://bit.ly/3pM7oii>
-  www.youtube.com/channel/UC9N5k4EAiTJN9jy7ovaQrXg



3 ESOL: Adults who live in Edinburgh and for whom English is not a first language can apply to join one of our English (ESOL) classes. These classes are currently online using Microsoft Teams. Learners can improve their everyday communication skills, for example for their personal lives; for work and study; to help children with homework and to communicate with teachers, doctors, shopkeepers, neighbours and others. The classes also help learners understand more about life in Scotland and feel more included in their communities.

Weekly online English classes at different levels are available to adults for whom English is not a first language. New learners are invited to a language assessment meeting and then placed in an appropriate class or on a waiting list. New learners can be accepted into classes at the start of each term, provided there are spaces.

For general enquiries please email: ESOL@ea.edin.sch.uk | **Tel:** 0800 085 7672

For more details contact Karen - Karen.buist@edinburgh.gov.uk

4 Family Learning: We work in partnership with teachers and other colleagues to deliver Family Learning workshops, groups, clubs and events for parents, carers and their children. These encourage family members to learn together as and within a family.

They are designed to support parents and carers to create strategies to help their children's learning and development. They shine a light for them on the learning opportunities in everyday life at home, in the community and outdoors. In addition, parents and carers are supported to actively and meaningfully engage in their children's learning and life at school.

Examples of some Family Learning courses and projects delivered online in the past year are:

Time for a Story: online videos with stories, songs and activities to do together at home

▶ www.youtube.com/channel/UCfyyf4R4ek_mXcRQL5rbYzA

Help Your Child to Learn: a series of 5 interactive online workshops for parents and children which use the Primary 3 Read, Write, Count resources. **Read, Write, Count bags Unpacked** will be launched very soon with video clips that can be accessed by families both in Edinburgh and more widely across Scotland. **"I think that all Dads should do this. It's opened my eyes to think of new ways to help my son's learning."** Fraser, parent from the Dads' Group.

▶ <https://youtu.be/5z5K6Q921qM>

Family Learning support for parents with children learning at home: a series of 3 interactive online sessions for parents with children of primary school age who have been learning at home due to lockdown.

For more information contact Karen - Karen.buist@edinburgh.gov.uk

Family Learning



5 Outlook: We offer individual guidance, information, classes and educational support. The service enables people who access mental health services to take up a variety of both local and City-wide opportunities. Short, free, beginner level courses are available in a range of subjects throughout the year, offering an informal way to try out new subjects in small groups. Learners are invited to meet with a worker when first accessing the service to discuss their interests, different services on offer and what to expect when accessing Outlook courses. People can both self-refer or be referred through an agency.

We are currently planning some small outdoor classes, these will be our first outdoor sessions since February 2020 and are set to take place this August and September. After these classes have taken place, we will be looking at the potential for having a mixed-model of online and face to face sessions. We are also currently offering guidance, and supporting learners with our monthly newsletters. We have a range of educational videos on our YouTube as well:

If you would like more information about Outlook, please email: CLD.OP@edinburgh.gov.uk

If emailing is difficult, then you can call Alex on 07752 700754. He works on Tuesdays and Fridays, if there is no answer, please leave your name and number and he'll get back to you.



6 Resettlement Programme (ESOL and Family Learning): Formerly we were called the Syrian Resettlement Project. 2 services are available for refugees from countries covered under the UK resettlement scheme. We offer English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, as well as Family Learning courses. Our ESOL tutors deliver over 20 online ESOL classes every week. The Family Learning workers support families to learn English together.

ESOL: We offer beginner classes including classes for those new to ESOL. Our aim is to provide high quality, responsive ESOL services for refugees, which will then enable them to develop English language skills, improve communication with local services, and feel more included and settled in their local communities. Our classes are small, friendly and very welcoming.



We also have 62 English Snacks videos on our YouTube channel. The short videos are suitable for learners new to ESOL and can be stacked up to slightly more challenging levels. These can be found by following the link below:

 <https://www.youtube.com/EnglishSnacks>

For information on the Resettlement Programme's ESOL classes, please contact either Karen or Hannah: Karen.riddell@ea.edin.sch.uk - Hannah.avison@ea.edin.sch.uk



Family Learning: Our aim is to provide high quality, responsive family learning opportunities for the entire family whilst using everyday English to enhance learning. During the term time we delivered 2 men's groups, 1 Womens group, 2 youth groups and 1 mixed group, all meeting for 2hrs each week. The online groups provided families with English learning opportunities to participate in. All groups were designed to help parents find out more about how children learn in school and how they can support this learning.

The groups also allowed for the parents to improve their own learning, as well as connect with other families, thus creating supportive relationships. All the groups will recommence after the summer holidays, spaces will be provided to the newly settled families.



Storytelling: During the summer holidays family learning Workers will be supporting families learning together through interactive storytelling. The weekly storytelling sessions will be aimed at recently arrived Syrian Families. The sessions will encourage reading and oral storytelling, providing learning opportunities through rhymes, and inspiring games and other

family fun activities. Families will be encouraged to capture their interaction with the sessions by recording moments in photos, video and feedback. All the session will have Arabic and Kurdish language support.

f Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/SRPEdinburghteam>

If you would like to know more about the Family Learning Project, then you can speak with Mhairi or Shingai. Mhairi.mcneill@ea.edin.sch.uk - Shingai.maramba@ea.edin.sch.uk

We fully appreciate that Covid-19 has negatively impacted peoples lives and that the current situation is particularly challenging for various reasons. Here are some links, information and contact details for financial and mental health support services.

The City of Edinburgh Council: For the latest Covid-19 guidelines and more information on the City of Edinburgh Council services, please go to: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/>

Mental Health Information Station: The service is lead by NHS occupational Therapists, input is drawn from health and social care staff, peer support workers, volunteers and third sector partners. The service is a one stop shop acting as a source of support, information and sign posting to ensure that people have access to the right support as early as possible.

Tel: 0131 537 8688 (Thursdays from 9.30am to 4.30pm)

Email: MentalHealthInformation@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Web: <https://services.nhslothian.scot/mentalhealthinformationstation/Pages/default.aspx>



Community Resources Directory: This detailed guide lists on the different resources and services that can be accessed across the city, including: training, mental health, fitness and wellbeing.

https://services.nhslothian.scot/mentalhealthinformationstation/Documents/Connect%20Here%20Directory%20of%20Community%20Resources%206th%20Edition%2030_06.pdf

The Advice Shop: this is a free service provided by the City of Edinburgh Council which offers advice and support around welfare rights and reducing personal debt.

Tel: 0131 200 2360 | **Email:** advice.shop@edinburgh.gov.uk

Web: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/benefits-grants/money-advice-help-debt/1>

Twitter, Instagram and Facebook social media icons designed by blackfrog 714, available at Vecteezy: [https://www.vecteezy.com/vector-art/229478-simple-flat-colored-social-](https://www.vecteezy.com/vector-art/229478-simple-flat-colored-social-media-icons-set)

[media-icons-set](https://www.vecteezy.com/vector-art/132942-social-media-logot) YouTube social media icon designed by funforyou07, available at Vecteezy: <https://www.vecteezy.com/vector-art/132942-social-media-logot>

